

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4304
September 8, 2009

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Gene Dodaro
Acting Comptroller General
Government Accountability office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

I am writing to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) undertake an investigation of the Army's Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Strategy and the acquisition policies and decisions deriving from that strategy.

In recent years, several of the Congressional committees with jurisdiction over national defense, including the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees of both chambers, have sought the release of a Tactical Wheeled Vehicle Strategic Plan from the U.S. Army. Within the past two years, both the Office of Management and Budget and the office of the Secretary of Defense have also requested a plan or blueprint from the Army.

I am alarmed that no such plan appears to have been formulated or released, despite the fact that the Army's inventory includes over 250,000 tactical vehicles. I believe the Army must set forth a comprehensive plan for the future acquisition of new technology vehicles and/or the reset and recapitalization of its current inventory.

Throughout the past decade, the Congress has been asked to authorize and appropriate funds for the development and procurement of multiple Army wheeled vehicle initiatives, including all ranges of tactical vehicles and initiatives such as the Expedited Modernization Improvement procedures (EMIP), the Future Tactical Truck System, various Platform System Demonstrations, and the on-going development of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle. These investments, worth billions of dollars, must be justified within the context of a comprehensive strategic plan from the U.S. Army.

I also remain concerned about the Army's policies regarding competition of the current fleet. Recently, the Army competed the contract for the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) for the third time. There has been no competitive procurement of the Army's Light or Heavy tactical vehicle fleet in decades. What policies and procedures lead to such a dichotomy in Army practices?

I request the GAO address the following issues:

- 1) TWV Strategy
 - a. Does the Army have a tactical Wheeled Vehicle strategy document?
 - b. If the Army lacks a TWV strategy, what is the basis for the wheeled vehicle development and acquisition decisions the Army makes?
- 2) Army's Wheeled Vehicle fleet
 - a. What vehicles does the Army consider to be included in their TWV fleet today?
 - b. Is the Army's current plan for maintaining TWV capabilities viable, in terms of the industrial base for building vehicles?
 - c. Does the Army have a plan for resetting their current fleet?
 - d. What requirements exist for wheeled vehicles in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve?
- 3) Army TWV procurement
 - a. Describe the contractor base for tactical wheeled vehicles in each of the Light, Medium, and Heavy fleets. Is there a competitive environment?
 - b. When were the most recent competitions for an Army Light, Medium, and Heavy Tactical Vehicle procurement?
 - c. What is the basis for multiple competitions of the Medium fleet in light of no similar competitions for the Light and Heavy fleet? Please analyze the depth and breadth of the Army's strategy in procuring the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV).
 - d. Based on the rationale that the Army has used to compete the Medium fleet, should the Congress direct the Army to also compete the Light and Heavy fleets as well?

I recognize that this analysis cannot be completed prior to Congressional consideration of the FY 10 Defense budget. However, this matter is important and involves a significant expenditure of Army funds. Therefore, it is essential that the GAO complete this study as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact my Military Legislative Assistant, Mr. Stephen Rubright, at 202-224-1689 regarding this matter. I appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate